GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:307
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2015
Amendment in Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940
Boianapalli Shri Vinod Kumar

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has assessed the impact of current drug policy in ensuring drugs to consumers at affordable price and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government proposes to review the current drug pricing policy to make drugs available to poor patient in the country and if so, outcome thereof;

(c) whether the views of the State Governments and other Stateholders have been considered before arriving at a common platform for pricing of drugs and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure MultiNational Drug Companies market their products at affordable prices for the common man?

Answer

MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
(SHRI ANANTH KUMAR)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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STATEMENT REFFERED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 324 FOR REPLY ON 22.12.2015
(a): The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy-2012 was notified on 7th December 2012 and subsequently the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 was notified on 15th May 2013 under the provisions of which all the medicines as specified in strength/dosages form in the National List of Essential Medicines 2011 (NLEM) have been brought under price control.
(b) & (c): The Government has been reviewing/re-evaluating the policy whenever required in consultation with stakeholders and it is an ongoing process.

(d): The provisions under National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy-2012 (NPPP-2012) are to put in place a regulatory framework for pricing of essential drugs as per the strength and dosages as specified in National Lit of Essential Medicines-2011 which satisfy the priority healthcare needs of majority of the population. Subsequently, Drug Price Control Order, 2013 (DPCO-2013) was notified by the Government. Under its provisions, National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has fixed the ceiling prices in respect of 530 NLEM medicines under scheduled category of DPCO, 2013 including 47 medicines for cancer and 22 for HIV medicines based on market price data under provisions of the said order.
In addition, maximum retail price (MRP) has been capped under para 19 of DPCO, 2013, in respect of 106 non scheduled medicines, out of which 84 are used for treatment of cardiovascular diseases and 22 for diabetes. NPPA has also fixed the retail price of 247 'new drugs' under para 5 of DPCO, 2013.

The reduction in price with respect to maximum price is as under:

<> % reduction with respect to Maximum Price No. of drugs
0<= 5% 80
5<=10% 50
10<=15% 57
15<=20% 43
20<=25% 65
25<=30% 49
30<=35% 26
35<=40% 34
Above 40% 126
530
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